(e) and (f) As a follow up of the National Level Users' Meeting on 19-20th May, 2005, and a meeting with the representatives of Central Trade Unions on 9th Sept., 2005, both held under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, another meeting of the Technical Committee on Statistics of Prices and Cost of Living (TAC on SPCL) with three members each representing all the Central Trade Unions and all Employers' Organisation as special invitees, was held on 17th Feb., 2006 under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation and Director General, Central Statistical Organisation, in which the release of the new series was recommended.

Statehood to Delhi

*379. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any exercise to examine the issue of granting full Statehood to Delhi; and

(b) if so, the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the proposal to grant statehood to Delhi has ben referred for in-depth examination to an Inter-Ministerial Committee of offcials, which includes a representative of the Government of NCT of Delhi.

Disaster Management Institutes

*380. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up any Disaster Management Institutes under the aegis of the National Disaster Management Authority;

(b) if so, what specific subjects will be analysed and tackled through such institutes dealing with Disaster Management;

(c) whether NDMA has also co-opted some universities in this task; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by NDMA in this regard in the last four months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) became functional with effect from 28th September, 2005. The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) was set up by the Central Government on 16th October, 2003. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 which was enacted on 23rd December, 2005, *inter-alia*, provides that NIDM shall function within the broad policies and guidelines laid down by NDMA. No other Disaster Management Institute has been set up under the aegis of NDMA.

(b) NIDM will be responsible for planning and promoting training and research in the area of disaster management, documentation and development of national level information base relating to disaster management policies, prevention mechanisms and mitigation measures.

(c) NDMA has not co-opted any university for the purpose. However, it has interacted with a number of universities dealing with specific fields of Disaster Management.

(d) NDMA members have visited a large number of States as also various technical/research institutions. NDMA has also organized/participated in more than 25 workshops/conferences on various facets of disaster management.

Amendments in Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09

2556. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced several amendments in the Foreign Trade Policy 2004—2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits to accrue to different segments of the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir, on April 7th 2006, Government announced a number of initiatives through the second Annual Supplement within the overall frame work of the Foreign Trade Policy 2004—09.